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WAR NEWS.

A telegram from Louisville, dated yesterday, informs us that intelligence from the headquarters of the Army of Tennessee, states that Major General Sherman was then in General Thomas' headquarters, having made a junction of his entire corps with General Grant's right.

A telegram from Cumberland Gap, dated the 13th instant, states that a very spirited skirmish with the Confederates occurred the previous day, about ten miles from the gap, in Virginia. A forage train of twenty-one wagons had been sent out with a guard of twenty-eight men. The wagons were loaded and started for the gap, with no appearance of danger, when suddenly a party of seventy Confederates rushed upon them, overpowering the guard, and compelling a surrender. Ten minutes after the capture, Colonel Lemert, commanding the Federal forces at the gap, appeared in a bend of the road. While the Confederates, ignorant of danger, were approaching, Colonel Lemert immediately led the charge with "ten men" of the fourth battalion Ohio volunteer cavalry. A fierce hand-to-hand sabre fight occurred for a few minutes, when the Confederates retreated. "The train and prisoners were recaptured, eleven of the Confederates taken prisoners, two killed and four wounded, and some small arms and horses captured."

A letter dated Chattanooga on Friday last, published in a New York paper, mentions a rumor prevailing there then, that Gen. Hooker had just been attacked. A Chattanooga dispatch of the same date published on Monday, makes no mention of a general engagement, but only alludes to the firing of the batteries on Lookout Mountain, which, it is said, was kept up briskly all day.

It is reported that the Confederate forces in Arkansas, under Generals Marmaduke and Price, have fallen back south of the Little Missouri river. The whole Southern forces in the State are estimated at between six to eight thousand.

A Memphis dispatch reports the Confederate guerrillas as still active in the vicinity of the city, capturing planters coming in with cotton.

THE CONFISCATION LAW.—As stated, yesterday, in the U. S. District Court, for the Eastern District of Virginia, held in this place, Judge Underwood, has, in the case of the U. S. vs. Hugh Latham, under the Confiscation Act, decreed the sale of the property of the defendant, and directed a deed to be made for conveying the property to the purchaser, not only during the natural life of the defendant, but forever. This decision is different from that made under the same law in Washington, we believe. The principle involved will, it is said, be further contested in the U. S. Courts.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—On Sunday morning last the cavalry division of General Kilpatrick, under the temporary command of General Custer, made a reconnoissance along the Rapidan at Raccoon Ford, to ascertain the truth or falsity of reports that the Confederates were falling back on Gordonsville. A few sharpshooters were seen in the lower rifle pits, and shortly afterwards a strong infantry force was developed. The river was too swollen by the heavy storm of Saturday night to make the attempt to cross, and the cavalry returned. It was confidently believed that trains over the railroad would run into Culpeper last night, as the bridge over the Rappahannock is nearly completed, and the road uninjured to Culpeper.

The report on Thursday that a Confederate force had crossed the Rapidan and attacked Gen. Kilpatrick is untrue. Several English army officers are now quartered at General Meade's Headquarters.

Information received through an "usually reliable" channel in Washington, is to the effect that two divisions of Gen. Hill's corps have left the Rapidan and gone southward, but whether to Tennessee or Fredericksburg, or to demonstrate upon the left flank of the Army of the Potomac does not appear.

It is reported that at least one sutler of the Confederate army remained behind at Culpeper with a considerable stock of tobacco to offer for sale to the Federal troops. If this is correct, it will be confiscated.

Last night's Washington Republican says: "Things are quiet at the front but it is expected that hostilities between Gens. Meade and Lee will break out before the end of the week. The Confederates have been very industrious in throwing up defences upon their line, which indicates that they do not contemplate another movement in this direction at present."

A dispatch to the New York Times, dated Washington, Monday night, says:

"Rumors reach here to-night of cavalry fighting on the Rapidan. Firing was heard yesterday in the direction of Stevensburgh, and again to-day in the same direction. The Confederates captured a wagon train yesterday near Stevensburgh. The cause of the firing to-day is not known up to this hour, 11 P. M."

A party of Guerrillas crossed the Potomac at Young's Island on Friday last, capturing two men of the 2d Massachusetts cavalry, who were patrolling near Edwards's Ferry. They also took the mules from a canal boat, and such articles as they most needed. A detachment of Scott's Nine Hundred were sent in pursuit, but could not overtake the party."

A dispatch from Fortress Monroe states that the steamer Convoy, which left last Saturday with provisions and clothing for the Federal prisoners at Richmond, returned bringing back the provisions. Colonel Irving who went in charge, was refused permission to take the rations to Richmond.

Anthracite coal is now selling in this place at \$12.50 a ton.

FEDERAL PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

Under this head the Enquirer reprints and endorses an article from the Dispatch with reference to the treatment of prisoners, and says:—

"If we are starving ourselves how can we keep them from starving? But the truth is, that though straitened in our own means of life, we are doing as well for our prisoners as for ourselves. Our own people as we know of our own personal knowledge, are in some cases denied meat for their own families, because it is necessary for the Yankees."

Mr. J. K. Reid of Chambersburg, Pa., having written a letter August 21, to Commissioner Ould, got the following reply from W. H. Hatch, Captain and A. A. General, in the office for the exchange of prisoners:

"I am in receipt of yours of the 21st instant, addressed to Col. Ould, Agent for Exchange of prisoners. Every package either of clothing or money delivered to us for Federal prisoners, has been promptly delivered to the parties, and will continue to be, as long as the Federal authorities permit Confederate prisoners of war to receive like articles from their friends."

Since the receipt of this letter, bearing date August 31, Mr. Reid says he has been forwarding boxes and money to Richmond, all of which have been "promptly and honestly" delivered to the parties for whom they were intended.

FROM THE SOUTH.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 17.—The Petersburg Express, November 13th, says "All quiet on the Rapidan."

The Richmond Sentinel, of the 12th, says it is believed that Meade is advancing, but so slowly that days may pass before an engagement may take place. It may be he contemplates trying the Fredericksburg route, as the Yankees have been seen near Hartrod's Church, eight miles above Falmouth.

ATLANTA, November 11.—The enemy is advancing his line of works around Chattanooga with new batteries. Everything is quiet.

Seven Yankee soldiers, captured at Suffolk, last Tuesday, have arrived at Liby prison.

CHARLESTON, November 12.—A shell from Battery Simkins exploded in the midst of a party engaged in mounting another heavy gun on Battery Gregg, and several Yankees were carried away on litters.

MOBILE, Nov. 15.—To Gen. S. Cooper:—We dashed in yesterday, above Bayou Sara, on a plundering party of Yankees, three hundred strong, and drove them to their iron-clads with great slaughter. We brought off their wagon trains and 25 prisoners.

DABNEY H. MAURY,
Major General.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Nov. 15.—A large warehouse, next to the Custom House, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss is heavy, consisting of cotton, clothing, and a part of the cargo of the steamer Advance, belonging to the State of North Carolina.

It is stated that in a speech delivered last week, by Wendell Phillips, in New Haven, he said that in an interview which he had with President Lincoln in January last, the President expressed the opinion that "the greatest folly of his life was the issuing of the emancipation proclamation."